

The Research Center in Microfinance is an initiative launched by the Master in Microfinance and Financial Inclusion at the Universidad Autónoma in Madrid.

The research team is formed by researchers, academics, consultants and national and international experts on microfinance and entrepreneurship.

Our mission is to promote research on microfinance as a tool for economic growth, poverty reduction, financial inclusion and job creation, both in Spain and worldwide.

I. Our main goals:

- To publish research papers in journals and other scientific publications related to microfinance, development economics, financial economics and entrepreneurship.
- To provide training on microfinance.
- To participate in national and international microfinance conferences.
- To research and offer consultancy services on microfinance in Spain, and other developed or developing countries.

II. Main research areas

- Social and economic impact assessment of microfinance programs.
- Microfinance and gender.
- Microfinance in Spain and Europe.
- Mobile banking and microfinance.
- Microfinance legislation in Spain and in Europe.
- Credit risk analysis of microcredit programs.

III. Professional team

Our professional team has extensive experience in the microfinance sector, designing and implementing financial inclusion programs in a wide range of countries, providing technical assistance to institutions and working in different international research projects. The associate researchers, academics, consultants and national and international experts are linked to the Master in Microfinance and Financial Inclusion at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

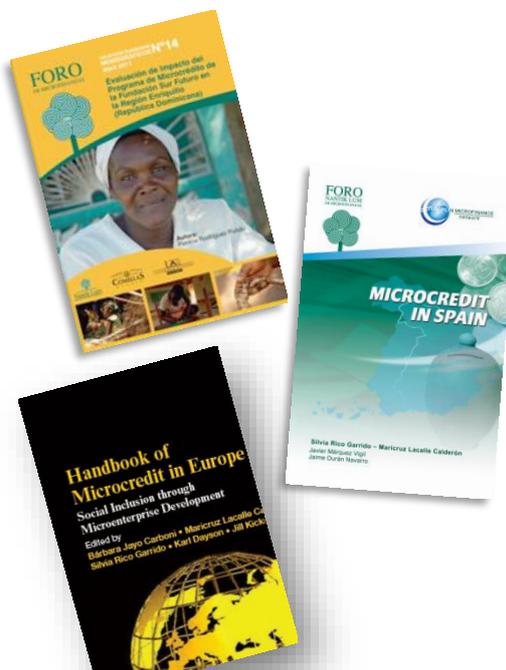
The team is coordinated by:

- **Javier Alfonso Gil**, PhD in Economics.
- **Maricruz Lacalle**, PhD in Economics.
- **Silvia Rico**, PhD in Economic and Business Administration.
- **Jaime Durán Navarro**, President at Spanish Microfinance Association.
- **Gonzalo Luzárraga**, Master in Microfinance UAM.
- **Diana Schvarztein**, Master in Microfinance UAM.

IV. Our main research projects

Impact assesment:

- Microcredit program of the microfinance institution FONDESOL: impact assessment on savings and women empowerment, Guatemala, (2012 y 2013).
- Microcredit program of Foundation Sur Futuro in Enriquillo Region, República Dominicana, (2011 y 2012).
- Mobile Banking in Tanzania, (2011).
- Microcredit program targeted to disabled women of Foundation Tevi in Tanzania, (2011).



Publications:

- “Financial inclusion to foster job creation – A case study on Madrid”, Citimicrofinance, (2012).
- “Microfinance in Spain: impact and recommendations for the future”, Global Microcredit Summit, Valladolid, (2011).
- “Handbook of Microcredit in Europe”, Edward Elgar, UK, (2010).
- “Overview of the Microcredit Sector in Europe, 2008-2009”, European Microfinance Network, Brussels.
- “Microcréditos y pobreza: De un sueño a Nobel de la Paz”, Ed. Turpial, Madrid, (2009).
- “Microcredit in Spain”, European Microfinance Network, Brussels, (2007).
- 20 Publications, Foro de Microfinanzas, Madrid, (2003-2013).

*We actively participate in a variety of microfinance networks:
REMEX (Red Española de Microfinanzas para el Exterior, Spain),
Foro de Microfinanzas (Spain), Spanish Association of
Microfinance and Global Microcredit Summit (Washington)*